

FAMILY CUPEDIDAE |

RETICULATED BEETLES, FAMILY CUPEDIDAE

(CUE-PEH-DIH-DEE)

Cupedids are a small and unusual family of primitive beetles with more than 30 species worldwide, two of which are found in eastern North America. Adults and larvae bore into fungus-infested wood beneath the bark of limbs and logs.

FAMILY DIAGNOSIS Adult cupedids are slender, parallel-sided, strongly flattened, roughly sculpted, and clothed in broad, scalelike setae. Head and pronotum narrower than elytra. Antennae thick, filiform with 11 antennomeres. Prothorax distinctly margined or keeled on sides, underside with grooves to receive legs. Elytra broader than prothorax, strongly ridged with square punctures between. Tarsal formula 5-5-5; claws simple. Abdomen with five overlapping ventrites.

SIMILAR FAMILIES

- net-winged beetles (Lycidae) – head not visible from above (p.229)
- hispine leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae) – antennae short, clavate; head narrower than pronotum (p.429)

COLLECTING NOTES Adult cupedids are found in late spring and summer by chopping into old decaying logs and stumps, netted in flight near infested wood, and beaten from dead branches. They are sometimes common at light.

FAUNA FOUR SPECIES IN FOUR GENERA (NA); TWO SPECIES IN TWO GENERA (ENA)

Cupes capitatus Fabricius (7.0–11.0 mm) is elongate, narrow, bicolored with reddish or golden head and remainder of body grayish black. Adults active late spring and summer, found under bark and on bare trunks of standing dead oaks (*Quercus*); attracted to light. Nothing has been published on immature stages. New England to Georgia, west to Ontario, Michigan, Kansas, and Missouri. (1)



Tenomerga cinereus (Say) (8.0–13.0 mm) is elongate, narrow, pale brownish or ashy gray with darker oblong patches or blotches on the elytra. Larvae tunnel into solid, decaying poles, rotting oak (*Quercus*) trestle timbers, and pine (*Pinus*). Adults active late spring and summer, found beneath bark, sometimes associated with old wood frame houses; attracted to light. Ontario and New Hampshire south to Florida, west to Michigan and Texas. (1)

